

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A receptacle for use with a medical suction device which is equipped with a rigid case for detachably holding and air-tightly surrounding at least a portion of said receptacle, and a patient-side tube for introducing waste liquid into said receptacle, and designed to create a negative pressure in both an interior space of said rigid case and an interior space of said receptacle so as to allow waste liquid to be sucked into said receptacle through said patient-side tube, said receptacle comprising:

one port portion connected to said patient-side tube;

a receptacle main body for holding waste fluid sucked through the port portion; and

an air-pervious/liquid-impervious element having air perviousness and liquid imperviousness, said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element—~~at least partly constituting being provided in~~ at least the portion of said receptacle main body ~~to be surrounded by said rigid case, wherein~~

_____said air-pervious/ liquid-impervious element ~~being is~~ adapted to discharge an air in the interior space of said receptacle to the interior space of said rigid case in response to the negative pressure created in the interior space of said rigid case, and

_____an outer peripheral portion of said port portion is detachably and air-tightly attachable to said rigid case, so that an entire region except for a part of said port portion is surrounded by said rigid case.

2. (original) The receptacle as defined in claim 1, which further includes a check valve adapted to allow waste liquid sucked from said patient-side tube

to flow into the interior space thereof, and prevent said sucked waste liquid from flowing out to said patient-side tube.

3. (previously presented) The receptacle as defined in claim 1, wherein said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element is located below a connection position with said patient-side tube in the state after being held by said rigid case.

4. (original) The receptacle as defined in claim 3, wherein said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element is located at a position corresponding to a liquid level for a target suction volume of waste liquid, in the state after being held by said rigid case.

5. (original) The receptacle as defined in claim 4, wherein said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element is located over a given range below said liquid level for the target suction volume of waste liquid, in the state after being held by said rigid case.

6. (previously presented) The receptacle as defined in claim 3, which further includes pressure reduction means for reducing a residual pressure in the interior space thereof after completion of the waste-liquid collecting operation.

7. (original) The receptacle as defined in claim 6, wherein said pressure reduction means is adapted to increase a volume of the interior space of said receptacle so as to reduce said residual pressure.

8. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in claim 3, ~~which comprises~~ wherein said receptacle main body includes:

a first sheet having air-imperviousness and liquid-imperviousness; and

a second sheet including said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element and having a peripheral edge joined to a peripheral edge of said first sheet[[:]], and

said a rigid port portion is rigid and joined between said first and second sheets and adapted to form a part of a passage for introducing waste liquid between said first and second sheets, and

~~wherein~~-said receptacle is designed to allow said first and second sheets to be entirely surrounded by said rigid case while air-tightly attaching an outer peripheral surface of said port portion to said rigid case.

9. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in claim 1,~~which comprises~~ wherein said receptacle main body includes:

a first sheet having air-imperviousness and liquid-imperviousness; and

a second sheet having air-perviousness and liquid-imperviousness to serve as said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element, said second sheet having a peripheral edge joined to a peripheral edge of said first sheet[[:]], and

~~a~~-said rigid port portion is rigid and joined between said first and second sheets and adapted to form a part of a passage for introducing waste liquid between said first and second sheets, and

~~wherein~~-said receptacle is designed to allow said first and second sheets to be entirely surrounded by said rigid case while air-tightly attaching an outer peripheral surface of said port portion to said rigid case.

10. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in claim 1,~~which comprises~~ wherein said receptacle main body includes:

a bag-shaped sheet having air-imperviousness and liquid-imperviousness, said sheet being adapted to collect waste liquid in an interior space thereof; and

a communication member for forming a passage which provides fluid communication between the interior and exterior spaces of said sheet, wherein said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element is incorporated in said communication member in such a manner as to close said passage.

11. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in claim 8, which further includes a fastening element for fastening a folded portion of said sheet to prevent said folded portion from being unfolded, said fastening element being designed to release the fastened state of said folded portion in response to expansion of said receptacle which is caused by a difference between a pressure in a space located inside said rigid case and outside said receptacle and a pressure in the interior space of said receptacle, occurring in an initial stage of the creation of a negative pressure in the interior space of said rigid case.

12. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in claim 1, which further includes a coagulating agent adapted to coagulate the collected waste liquid.

13. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in claim 12, which further includes a partition portion for partitioning the interior space of said receptacle main body into a waste-liquid receiving chamber for collecting waste liquid therein and a coagulating-agent storage chamber for storing said coagulating agent, said partition portion being adapted to provide fluid communication between said waste-liquid receiving chamber and said coagulating-agent storage chamber according to a given operation of a user.

Claims 14 – 19 (canceled).

20. (new) The receptacle as defined in claim 1, wherein the one port portion is the only port portion providing communication between the receptacle main body and areas external of the rigid case.

21. (new) The receptacle as defined in claim 1, wherein the outer peripheral portion of said port portion is made of a synthetic resin having elasticity and being dimensioned to provide air-tightness with the rigid case.

22. (new) The receptacle as defined in claim 1, wherein the port portion includes an internal portion disposed adjacent an internal surface of the rigid case, an external portion disposed adjacent an external surface of the rigid case, and a clamp portion between the internal and external portions of the port portion and configured for air tight engagement with areas of the rigid case between the internal and external surfaces thereof.

23. (new) A receptacle for use with a medical suction device equipped with a rigid air-tight case having an interior space, the medical suction device being operative to create a negative pressure in the interior space, the receptacle further being for use with a patient-side tube external of the rigid case, the receptacle comprising:

a connection adaptor having a first end configured to be fluidically connected with the patient-side tube, a second end, a guide hole extending between the first and second ends and a clamped portion disposed between the first and second ends, the clamped portion having an outer peripheral surface configured for detachable

air-tight connection with the rigid case so that the second end of the connection adaptor is disposed in the interior space; and

a receptacle main body mounted to the second end of the connection adaptor and having an interior space communicating with the guide hole of the connection adaptor for holding waste fluid sucked through the patient-side tube and the guide hole, the receptacle main body including an air-pervious/liquid-impervious element having air perviousness and liquid imperviousness, the air-pervious/liquid-imperviousness element being adapted to discharge air in the interior space of the receptacle to the interior space of the rigid case in response to the negative pressure created in the interior space of said rigid case.

24. (new) The receptacle as defined in claim 23, wherein the connection adaptor provides the only communication between the interior space of the receptacle main body and areas external of the rigid case.

25. (new) The receptacle as defined in claim 24, wherein the clamped portion has an outer peripheral surface made of a synthetic resin having elasticity for providing the detachable air-tight connection between the connection adaptor and the rigid case.

26. (new) A receptacle for use with a medical suction device equipped with a rigid air-tight case having an interior space, the medical suction device being operative to create a negative pressure in the interior space, the receptacle further being for use with a patient-side tube external of the rigid case, the receptacle comprising:

connection adaptor means for delivering waste fluid sucked through the patient-side tube to the interior space of the rigid case;

clamped means on the connection adaptor means for detachable air-tight connection to the rigid case;

waste fluid holding means for communicating with the connection adaptor means and for receiving the waste fluid delivered to the interior space of the rigid case by the connection adaptor means; and

air discharge means for permitting a flow of air from an interior space of the waste fluid holding means to the interior space of the rigid case and for preventing a flow of the waste fluid from the interior space of the waste fluid holding means to the interior space of the rigid case external of the waste holding means.